

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 01297 080850Z

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UNCLAS PRAGUE 1297

FOR COMMERCE/BEWT

FOR VOA

VIENNA FOR USEWTC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, ETRD, CZ

SUBJECT: AGREEMENT BETWEEN U.S. AND CZECHOSLOVAK
CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

REF: PRAGUE 1227, AND PREVIOUS.

1. AN AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH WORKING RELATIONSHIP BEWGEN
U.S. AND CZECHOSLOVAK CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE WAS
INITIALLED IN PRAGUE ON JUNE 7. MR. CHARLES H. SMITH, JR.,
CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF U.S. CHAMBER AND LEADER OF DELEGATION,
INITIALLED FOR U.S. CHAMBER; AND DR. POMIEN MATUSKA,
VICE PRESIDENT OF CZECHOSLOVAK CHAMBER, INITIALLED FOR
CZECH SIDE, IN ABSENCE OF PRESIDENT LUDVIK CERNY WHO
IS ABROAD ON BUSINESS.

2. ACCORDING TO U.S. CHAMBER REPRESENTATIVES, THE AGREEMENT
IS VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL TO THOSE SIGNED BETWEEN U.S. CHABER
AND OTHER EAST EUROPEAN CHAMBERS, INCLUDING THOSE OF POLAND,
HUNGARY AND ROMANIA. BRIEFLY, AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR
CREATION OF ECONOMIC COUNCIL TO SERVE AS PRINCIPAL VEHICLE FOR
BILATERAL TIES BETWEEN TWO CHA BERS. IN U.S. CHAMBER,
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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 01297 080850Z

COUNCIL WILL BE COMPOSED OF HIGH-LEVEL EXECUTIVES OF U.S.

FIRMS HAVING INTEREST IN AND PROSPECTS FOR TRADE WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA; IN CZECHOSLOVAK CHAMBER, SIMILAR NUMBER AND GRADE OF ENTERPRISE MANAGERS INTERESTED IN COMMERCIAL TIES WITH U.S. FIRMS WILL SERVE AS COUNCIL MEMBERS. COUNCIL WILL PROVIDE FORUM FOR DISCUSSION OF BROAD RANGE OF COMMERCIAL ISSUES, AND WILL MEET ALTERNATELY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND UNITED STATES ON A SCHEDULE TO BE AGREED UPON. NEGOTIATING SESSIONS WERE MARKED BY EXTREME CORDIALITY ON PART OF CZECH HOSTS AND PRACTICALLY NO POINTS OF CONTENTION AROSE AS BOTH SIDES MOVED QUICKLY TO APPROVE TEST OF AGREEMENT EXCHANGED IN DRAFT BEFOREHAND.

3. INITIALLING CEREMONY LIKELY TO BE CARRIED ON NATIONAL TV EVENING JUNE 7, AND CHAIRMAN SMITH ALSO GRANTED INTERVIEW TO LOCAL AP CORRESPONDENT. FOLLOWING CZECHOSLOVAK OFFICIALS, AMONG OTHERS, WERE PRESENT AT INITIALLING CEREMONY:
MR. JAROSLAV ZANTOVSKY, HEAD OF SIXTH DEPARTMENT, MFA
MR. JAROSLAV MERCL, CHIEF OF SECTION, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE
DR. JAROSLAV HAMPL, CZECHOSLOVAK CHAMBER
ING. JAROSLAV HANZLIK, CZECHOSLOVAK CHAMBER
THE CHARGE AND EMBASSY ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICER,
ROBERT FARRAND, ALSO ATTENDED.
WORTZEL

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